

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 05923 271334Z
ACTION L-03

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 ISO-00 JUSE-00 CA-01 SCS-06
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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC NIACT IMMEDIATE 3908
INFO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL SYDNEY IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMCONSUL AUCKLAND
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY SUVA
AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 5923

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, CPRS
SUBJECT: EXTRADITION: JOHN HERBERT MEIER, AKA IVOR A. ROBERTSON

REF: STATE 187685

1. IN RESPONSE TO LATEST EMBASSY REQUEST FOR MEIER'S PROVISIONAL ARREST BASED ON TREATY CITATIONS REFTEL, GOA ATTORNEY GENERALS OFFICE NOTIFIED THE EMBASSY LATE AFTERNOON 27 JULY THAT MEIER HAS BEEN TAKEN INTO CUSTODY. HE IS CURRENTLY BEING HELD AT PHILLIP STREET POLICE STATION, SYDNEY. MEIER HAS ALREADY BEEN IN TOUCH WITH HONARARY CONSUL FOR TONGA, WILLIAM STANLY WATERHOUSE, SYDNEY, IN ATTEMPT TO GAIN RELEASE FROM CUSTODY.

2. ACCORDING TO ATTORNEY GENERALS OFFICE, GOA WOULD NOT AT THE MOMENT RECOGNIZE THE VALIDITY OF MEIER'S DIPLOMATIC PASSPORT, QUOTE DIPLAMATIC IMMUNITY, END QUOTE OR QUOTE PROTECTED PERSON END QUOTE STATIS REPORTEDLY CONFERRED ON HIM BY THE KING OF
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TONGA. (CANBERRA 5762), AND WOULD NOT, REPEAT NOT, RELEASE HIM ON THE BASIS OF ANY OF THESE CLAIMS BY MEIER OR ANYONE REPRESENTING HIM. ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE COULD NOT PREDICT WHAT DECISION OF HEARING MAJESTRATE MIGHT BE IF MEIER OR LEGAL REPRESENTATIVE MADE DEMAND FOR RELEASE FROM PROVISIONAL ARREST ON SOME OTHER GROUNDS.

3. AS MENTIONED PREVIOUSLY, GOA HAS BEEN RECEPTIONALLY CAUTIOUS IN HANDLING OUR REQUESTS FOR MEIER'S PROVISIONAL ARREST, SINCE HE APPARENTLY HAS THE FULL CONFIDENCE OF THE KING OF TONGA. TIMING OF PROVISIONAL ARREST IS OF CONCERN TO THE GOA, SINCE A STATE VISIT BY THE KING OF TONGA IS IN THE OFFING AND ANY PROTEST BY THE KING OR ADVERSE PUBLICITY ON MEIER'S ARREST COULD BE POLITICALLY EMBARRASSING TO THE GOA.

4. FOR THESE REASONS, EMBASSY URGES THAT IMMEDIATE ACTION BE TAKEN FOR EXTRADITION HEARINGS IN THE U.S., ISSUANCE AND DELIVERY TO CANBERRA OF NECESSARY EXTRADITION PAPERS, AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR MEIER TO BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY AND TO THE U.S.

5. GOA WOULD LIKE TO HAVE MEIER EXTRADITED TO THE U.S. AS QUICKLY AS IT CAN BE ARRANGED. WE AGREE. ACCORDINGLY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE BEING INFORMED AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHEN EXTRADITION PAPERS WILL BE ISSUED AND WHEN U.S. MARSHALS (STATE 186241) CAN BE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN AUSTRALIA TO TAKE MEIER INTO CUSTODY.
ALSTON

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